

accountability and reform, there has been little change from their government.

The country's leadership continues to commit and permit appalling human rights violations. Past reports from the U.S. State Department have highlighted the mistreatment of prisoners, including torture, inhumane punishment, and lack of proper access to medical care. Conditions have been further exacerbated by COVID-19, with two major outbreaks in overcrowded prisons last year. Yet the government continues to deny access to human rights experts, including the U.N. Special Rapporteur on torture.

The Bahrain Government has also attempted to silence dissent by imprisoning opposition leaders, outlawing opposition parties, and banning online content as they see fit. The government restricts free speech on social media from their people and requires news and broadcasting outlets to be government-sanctioned, effectively stifling all independent journalism and healthy discourse. Additionally, reports indicate that the Bahrain Government monitors activists and other targets of interest by hacking into their phones.

My father was a journalist, so I know how vital freedom of speech and freedom of press are to a flourishing, stable country. As a staunch defender against government overreach and unwarranted surveillance, I cannot stand idly by as the people of Bahrain live in constant fear of surveillance, arrest, and imprisonment for simply voicing their thoughts.

America must hold Bahrain to a high standard, as we do with all our allies. The United States maintains a strategic relationship with Bahrain, as the country cooperates on U.S. defense initiatives in the region and hosts the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. The United States represents a beacon of hope and democracy to the rest of the world, and we cannot remain silent in the face of over a decade of human rights violations and repression.

This is a key year for change; Bahrain is slated to hold its parliamentary elections later this year. I strongly urge the Bahrain Government to allow peaceful demonstration and dissent, open their doors to independent oversight and international election observers, address their violations of human rights, and cease their attacks on free speech and free press. And during this pivotal year, I also urge the Biden administration to hold the Bahrain Government accountable for their overdue promises of reform.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the National FFA Organization and celebrate National FFA Week, February 19–26, 2022. This is a week to applaud the positive impact FFA has made on our country and acknowledge the accomplishments of its members.

Previously known as the Future Farmers of America, the National FFA Organization was founded in 1928 by a group of young farmers with dreams to develop an organization which would address the challenges of feeding a growing population. These young farmers' leadership, experience, and passion for the industry became a movement that, for nearly 100 years, has adapted to represent the entirety of agriculture, not just farming. The National FFA Organization has been an institution where students can grow as both agriculturists and leaders. Today, there are 735,038 FFA members in 8,817 chapters across all 50 States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC. In my home State of Arkansas, FFA has 229 chapters with close to 16,000 members.

FFA is a part of an integrated model that implements classroom agricultural education and hands-on, experiential learning. I commend the more than 13,000 agricultural science teachers and FFA advisers who prepare the next generation of leaders. It is because of them that we can be confident in the upcoming farmers, ranchers, foresters, agriculturalists, scientists, educators, and those who seek a career outside of the agricultural industry.

I have been fortunate to spend some time with these impressive young people. They hail from different parts of the country and come from unique backgrounds, but all possess the same passion for agriculture and service. It is always encouraging hearing FFA members share their experiences and goals for the future. There is no doubt they are prepared to make those goals reality.

FFA is about more than preparing students for careers in agriculture. It teaches leadership skills, instills a sense of service, and places young Arkansans and young people all over the country on the right path for success. After leaving their chapters, these young leaders continue to make a positive difference in the world around them. There are over 8 million FFA alumni. Alumni continue to use the knowledge and skills acquired while they were members. I know this to be true. Currently, I have eight FFA alumni on my staff, including some who received the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization and alumni who served as chapter, State, and national officers.

FFA members inspire those they serve, and I, too, have been impressed by the members and their accomplishments. I am increasingly optimistic about the future of agriculture, especially with passionate, dedicated leaders, like the ones developed by FFA, at the helm. FFA members serve as a reminder that our future is bright. I am honored to applaud the great work of FFA at the local, State, and national level as we celebrate National FFA Week.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ALASKA 2-1-1 SYSTEM

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Alaskans recognized February 11 to celebrate the Alaska 2-1-1 system, which connects community resource specialists with Alaskans in need of help finding vital services and resources. The Alaska 2-1-1 system has been instrumental in providing Alaskans with information regarding key health and human services within their community. Alaskans utilize 2-1-1 in emergency situations when barriers to connecting to care are most challenging. The 2-1-1 system has provided information regarding COVID-19 testing sites, vaccine clinics, and other services including childcare, emergency food and shelter services, senior services, and alcohol and drug treatment programs. One of the biggest challenges Alaskans continue to face is not knowing where to turn for help in their communities during a crisis. Having a specialist available at no cost is a critical element in accessing support and services. The Alaska 2-1-1 system helps to bridge that gap for Alaskans. I thank all of those working at Alaska 2-1-1 for their service to our neighbors and State.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 1687(b)(1)(A) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: Dr. Gloria Chairman Duffy of Santa Clara, California.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3247. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Isobutyl-2-methyl-1,3-dioxolane-4-methanol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9418-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3248. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fludioxonil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9482-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.